

## Changes - razord

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### 1.12 (not yet released)

- Wrote `razord-sync(1)` and `razord-alive(1)`. `razord-sync` rsyncs the catalogue at bootup and bootstrap. `razord-alive` broadcasts an ``I am alive" message to all servers in the razor-echo zone at bootup.
- Wrote `Razor::Config::findconf()` and `Razor::Config::findbin()` to locate Razor config files and binaries on the system. By default, `razord(1)` is setup to run from `$ENV{HOME}`.
- Razor's various distributed functions are now split accross 4 zones. `razor.vipul.net` lists the servers that contain an up-to-date copy of the catalogue. `razor-check(1)` picks up the closest server from this zone to check incoming mail. `razor-report.vipul.net` lists the servers that accept spam reports for the `razor.vipul.net` zone. `razor-report(1)` will send reports to the closest server from this zone. Servers in this zone will echo reports to all catalogue servers listed in the `razor-echo.vipul.net` zone. Finally, `razor-rsync.vipul.net` lists servers that provide rsync access to their catalogues for other catalogues to sync with.
- Added ``noecho'` and ``norecordchecks'` parameters to `razord.conf`.
- Added ``bind'` and ``group'` parameters to `razord.conf` and made them mandatory.
- Introduced ECHO protocol. Reports are echoed to other razor servers in the zone. Incoming reports are batched and broadcasted by `razord-echo`.
- Several minor fixes.
- `Razor::Signature` reoraganized. Moved `hash()` to `::String` and renamed `::Signature` to more appropriate, `::Catalogue`. `razor-agents` package doesn't require `Net::Daemon` and `Persistence::Object::Simple` anymore.
- `razord` can lookup multiple catalogues mounted at different places on the filesystem.

- razord heals corrupted objects.
- Added closest host discovery to Razor::Client. See razor-agents/Changes for details.
- Added support for reading config options from /etc/razord.conf (server configuration) and ~/razor.conf (client configuration). Moved config code to Razor::Config
- Added protocol version to razord greeting

### **0.24 (first version of pretty good release, may 22, 2000)**

- First public release.

### **0.20 (first version of peer review release, may 19, 1999)**

- First peer-review release.

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razor agents 1.17

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## What is Vipul's Razor?

Vipul's Razor is a distributed, collaborative, spam detection and filtering network. Razor establishes a distributed and constantly updating catalogue of spam in propagation. This catalogue is used by clients to filter out known spam. On receiving a spam, a Razor Reporting Agent (run by an end-user or a troll box) calculates and submits a 20-character unique identification of the spam (a SHA Digest) to its closest Razor Catalogue Server. The Catalogue Server echos this signature to other trusted servers after storing it in its database. Prior to manual processing or transport-level reception, Razor Filtering Agents (end-users and MTAs) check their incoming mail against a Catalogue Server and filter out or deny transport in case of a signature match. Catalogued spam, once identified and reported by a Reporting Agent, can be blocked out by the rest of the Filtering Agents on the network.

## What should I download?

Fetch the latest versions of [razor-agents](#) and [razor-agents-sdk](#) packages. The SDK bundles all Perl modules required by razor-agents and should be installed before razor-agents. Required modules ([Net::Ping](#), [Net::DNS](#), [Time::HiRes](#), [Digest::SHA1](#) and [Mail::Internet](#)) are also available from [CPAN](#).

## How do I install razor-agents?

Both razor-agents and razor-agents-sdk are installed in the standard perl way: perl Makefile.PL; make; make test; su; make install. Once razor-agents is installed see manpages of [razor-check](#) and [razor-report](#) for instructions on hooking them up in your mail stream.

## What has changed since last release?

The current release of Vipul's Razor is Release 1. Release 1 adds *distributed* functionality and fixes some long pending issues. For more information on changes see the change logs for [razor-agents](#) and [razord](#). If you are still running razor agents from the *pretty good* release (0.24), you are strongly advised to upgrade.

## Where is Razor developed?

Vipul's Razor is developed and hosted on sourceforge. Here's the

sourceforge project [summary](#). It's a good idea to join the either of the [razor-users](#) or [razor-announce](#) mailing lists if you are going to run razor actively.

### **Where's all the documentation?**

The following manpages are bundled in the razor-agents package, and also available online: [razor-check\(1\)](#), [razor-report\(1\)](#), [razor-discover\(1\)](#), [razor.conf\(5\)](#), [Razor::Client\(3\)](#)

Also see the [razor-users mailing list archive](#) for operational details and future development plans.

### **How can I help?**

Razor's efficacy is proportional to the number of people using it. That is, more spam reports translate into fewer spams in your mailbox. If you are a Razor user, please ask your peers to use it too. If you are an ISP, you can setup a troll address (see [razor-report](#) manpage) where your users can bounce the spam they receive, and integrate razor into your webmail system. If you are developer, you can help by contributing instructions and code to hookup razor agents with mail systems of your choice. And, finally, you can help by contributing code (see the [task list](#) for what remains to be done).

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## razor-check - Razor Filtering Agent

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### Synopsis

```
razor-check [-s -d -H] file_with_mail_in_rfc822_format
```

```
$ cat mail | razor-check  
$ razor-check ./mail  
$ razor-check -d ./mail
```

### Description

`razor-check` checks a mail against the distributed Razor Catalogue. It should be invoked before the mail is delivered or processed by a human. `razor-check` terminates with exit value 0 if the signature for the mail is catalogued on the server (spam) or 1 if the mail is not catalogued by the server (not a spam). `razor-check` should be invoked against every incoming mail by mail processors (like procmail) or MTAs (like sendmail). An alternate method would be to call `razor-check` from cron, at regular intervals, to identify and mark spam in queued mailboxes.

### Usage

`razor-check` is usually run by piping the contents of the mail to it, or by providing the name of the file that contains the mail message to be checked as the last argument. `razor-check` takes the following arguments:

**-s**

Simulate a check. Do everything except talk to the server.

**-d | --verbose**

Print debugging information.

**-H**

Compute and print the SHA hash of the mail contents. And then exit.

**-M | --mbox**

Accept a mailbox name on the command line and check every mail in the mailbox against the database. `razor-check` will print out the serial number of every mail found in the Catalogue. When combined with `-n` it will also print the serial numbers, prefixed with a `-`, of mails that were not found in the Catalogue. Usage:

```
razor-check -M ~/Mail/possible-spam
```

### **-S | --sig**

Accept a list of pre-computed (with `-H`) signatures on the command line, instead of computing one from mail content. When called with `--sig`, `razor-check` will not attempt to read from STDIN. Usage:

```
razor-check -d -S a8a3d545adb73f9733675571ffeaf10cba87745b
```

### **-conf=filename**

The path of the config file. By default the path is `~/razor.conf`, an alternate path can be specified with this option. See [razor.conf\(5\)](#) manpage for various configuration options.

### **-h**

Print a usage message and exit.

### **-v**

Print the version number and exit.

## **Recipes**

`razor-check` is usually invoked from `procmail(1)`. Here are some common ways of using it with `procmail`:

**To change the Subject header if mail is spam:**

```
:0 Wc
| razor-check
:0 Waf
| formail -i "Subject: Razor Warning: SPAM/UBE/UCE"
```

**To add a X-Razor-Warning header to spam:**

```
:0 Wc
| razor-check
:0 Waf
```

```
| formail -A "X-Razor-Warning: SPAM."
```

### To file spam in a mailbox

```
:0 Wc  
| razor-check  
:0 Wa  
/home/foo/Mail/razor-caught
```

### Author

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### See also

[razor.conf\(5\)](#), [razor-report\(1\)](#), [razor-discover\(1\)](#)

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Changes - razor-agent

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**1.17 (december 01, 2001)**

- Removed the ``Persistence::Object::Simple" dependency from test.pl

**1.16 (november 27, 2001)**

- Applied Nick Mossie's patch to fix `--mbox` option in `Razor::Agents`.
- Added support for split zones in `Razor::Config::new()`. Razor zone is now split into subzones, `'report'` and `'check'` to control the latency of report propagation through distributed servers. Servers listed in the reports zone accept checks and those in the check zone accept check request. **It is important that users upgrade to this version** otherwise their reports might be lost (as they will go to the nearest check servers, instead of a report server).

**1.13 (november 13, 2001)**

- `Razor::Client/Agent` don't `exit()` or `die()`; they cascade the error back to the caller through `Razor::ErrorHandler::errstr()`

**1.12 (november 7, 2001)**

- `Razor::Client` returns exit values `>1` for different errors. These are described in [Razor::Client\(5\)](#) manpage.
- Razor agents now use `Getopt::Long` instead of `-s`, to keep older versions of procmail happy. All old options are valid and retain their meaning.
- Moved command line parsing and common routines from `razor-check/report` to `Razor::Agents`.
- `razor-check` and `razor-report` can now work on mailboxes. A mailbox (in `mbox` format) can be provided on the command line with the `--mbox` option. `razor-check/report` will print the serial numbers of mails that were found in the catalogue.
- `--sig` option takes multiple signatures on the command line.
- All required modules are now bundled in `razor-agents-sdk`. Released version 1.00 of SDK.
- All modules use `strict`.



- Added support for checking and reporting precomputed signatures to razor-check and razor-report, through the `-sig` option.
- Added support for `-H` in razor-report.
- Razor::Signature reorganized. Moved `hash()` to `::String` and renamed `::Signature` to more appropriate, `::Catalogue`. razor-agents package doesn't require Net::Daemon or Persistence::Object::Simple anymore.
- Fixed a hairy bug in Razor::Client; it was too hairy to describe here.

### **1.06 (october 20, 2001)**

- razor-check & razor-report now return correct exit values.
- Some small fixes to POD documentation.

### **1.05 (october 19, 2001)**

- 1.04 was broken.

### **1.04 (first version of release 1, october 18, 2001)**

- Added closest host discovery to Razor::Client. Here's how it works: All razor servers that belong in a "zone" (razor.vipul.net, by default) are named a.zone, b.zone, etc. The client does a nslookup on a.zone, then b.zone and so on till it finds a domain that has a CNAME "list.terminator". Client sends out TCP pings to echo ports of these hosts and computes round trip time using Time::HiRes. The list of available servers is sorted based on RTTs and the closest server is chosen.

Rediscovery happens after `rediscovery_wait` amount of seconds, which is 7 (+-1) days by default. It can be forced with `<razor-client -d>` command.

Client moves from closest host to the next closest host, if:

- The server is not responding.
- The server has been upgraded and client doesn't understand the new protocol.
- The server is broken, gives spurious answers.

The next closest host remains the chosen host till rediscovery. This takes care of server/network outages, semantically broken servers, and transition from old to new protocols. Thanks to Peter J. Holzer for suggesting the use of a host naming scheme for server discovery.

- A fix to Razor::Signature to workaround procmail munging of mail. Thanks to Nick

Mossie for pointing this one out and suggesting a solution

- Added a debug mode to Razor::Client
- Moved client API to Razor::Client
- Added support for reading config options from /etc/razord.conf (server configuration) and ~/razor.conf (client configuration). Moved config code to Razor::Config

### **0.24 (first version of pretty good release, may 22, 2000)**

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Vipul's Razor is a distributed, collaborative, spam detection and filtering network. The primary focus of the system is to identify and disable an email spam before its injection and processing is complete.

Developer  
InfoProject  
Admins:  
hackworthProject: Vipul's  
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## Software

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- Development Status: 5 - Production/Stable
- Environment: Console (Text Based), No Input/Output (Daemon)
- Intended Audience: Developers, End Users/Desktop, System Administrators
- License: Artistic License
- Natural Language: English
- Operating System: POSIX
- Programming Language: Perl
- Topic: Filters, File Sharing

Registered: 2000-03-24 13:57

Activity Percentile (last week): 98.1142%

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